

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the above claim amendments and the following remarks. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1-20 have been rejected. Claims 1, and 12 are independent claims from which claims 2-11 and 20, and 13-19 respectively depend. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments can be found in the application as originally filed on page 2, first full paragraph, FIG. 7, page 6, third paragraph, and elsewhere in the application.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview held on April 28, 2004. Attached herewith is an Interview Summary.

Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Douglas (U.S. Patent Number 5,812,977) in view of Wang (U.S. Patent Number 6,505,162 B1). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-20 are patentable for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants' amended claim 1 recites:

A method of speech recognition processing that provides audible information over a communications device comprising:  
receiving a first speech input indicative of a first subject area;  
initiating a first subject application associated with said first subject area;  
*receiving a second speech input indicative of a second subject area associated with a second independent application;*  
storing at least one indicator indicating a current processing step of said first subject application; and  
storing a current context associated with said first subject application in a context table.

Neither Douglas nor Wang alone or in combination disclose or suggest at least the italicized features of Applicants' amended claim 1. Douglas is directed to a voice-activated system for initiating one of a number of subroutines (Abstract, FIG. 3 and column 7 line 63 to column 8 line 9). Douglas does not disclose or suggest at least "*receiving a second speech input indicative of a second subject area associated with a second independent application*". Similarly Wang is directed to a dialog management system that stores the state of sub-dialogs (subroutines) in base tables but does not disclose or suggest at least "*receiving a second speech input indicative of a second subject area associated with a second independent application*". (Abstract, FIGs. 9-11 and column 5, lines 44-45). The features of Applicants' amended claim 1 are non-obvious over Douglas and Wang because the pointers and stacks used in the subroutines of Douglas and Wang would not work when applied to independent applications because the pointers and stacks of subroutines are released to housekeeping when the subroutine is exited.

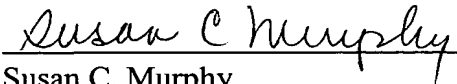
Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 12 and the claims that depend therefrom are patentable. Withdrawal of the rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is earnestly requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

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